



OTVARC Oscillator

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

September 1996 Issue

Home Page : WWW.EASYSTREET.COM/OTVARC

From The Prez:

Jim-KB7ADH

OK here's another attempt at eloquent prose....Ha!

OK, I'll say it for everybody. Where did the Summer go? It seems like only a couple weeks ago we were wondering when the Winter snow, wind, rain and mudslides would end. Now all of a sudden its the late Summer forest fire season and the back to school sales have started.

The arrival of fall means we must get serious about nominating candidates our 1997 officer and trustee positions. We still NEED LOTS OF VOLUNTEERS to run for these positions. During the October business meeting we will have open nominations. Here's your chance to help change and improve OTVARC. Call me (245-2518) if you would be willing to be nominated or know someone you feel would make a good officer or trustee.

In the Flea Market mood? As is the tradition, our September club meeting will be a mini swap meet.

Where did everybody go? Apparently the 5th Wednesday in July, 2 meter simplex contest didn't arouse much interest. I have been told that exactly 00.00 contacts were made and no score sheets have been turned in. Must have been too hot for hamming?? I got stuck in a meeting. You still have one more chance this year. October 30 is a 5th Wednesday. So we will have another contest in October. Mark your calendars now.

PHONETICS WANTED. I am still accepting suggestions for phonetics for the new OTVARC club call W7OTV. Some good ones and some very bad ones have been suggested. If we let KZ7T be a control operator, he may use W7 Old Tire Vulcanizer. If we ever do a special event station from the Washington County Fair produce show, we might use W7 Onions Tomatos Vegetables. I'm sure you can do better.

In July OTVARC members provided communication support for the Multiple Sclerosis MS-150 Bike Tour from Vernonia to Astoria and back. Each year this event raises over \$100,000 to help fight MS. Thank you to the following Hams (in no special order) who helped: N7THL, K7YBZ, KA7MOW, N7EPE, KZ7T, N7REX, KI7CL, W7FBP, N7VZS, KA5OLH, KB7POR, KB7MJQ, N7LMK,

KB7MPA, KC7PS, AE7W.

Don't forget the 2nd Annual Portland Ham Fair on Saturday September 21 at the Collector's Market (the old Pay N Pak building) on North Vancouver Ave. You can call 503-257-4822 for more information.

In the Flea Market mood? As is the tradition, our September club meeting will be a mini swap meet. Bring all that good ham radio stuff that you want to trade. If you have something that I need, don't bring it. I will be gone on Cycle Oregon IX (as will KZ7T, KB7POR, W7FBP, W7JWG, KA5OLH, N7LMK) during the second week in September. So, see you at the October meeting.

AAAAAAAAdh



Travellers Heading to Randal, WA
Chuck & Betty - Wagon Masters
(503) 642-1284

Special Election Update

Due to the fact that we did not have a quorum at the last general meeting, the special election will be held over until the September meeting. Please plan to attend so that we can get this business handled as soon as possible.

Editor's Note:

Deadline for articles:
15th of each month

Minutes of Board Meeting 7-24-96

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Secretary Alan Chinnock.
2. Those in attendance: Chuck Mickley, Janet Bell, Alan Chinnock, Brad Beach, Carl Clawson, Al Berg, and Stan Griffiths.
3. The secretary did not bring a printed copy of the minutes and the newsletter was not yet distributed. The minutes were not read or approved.
4. Progress on post cards to recruit new members --
Carl Clawson will print the mailing labels, Neil McKie will supply the file containing the addresses. Moved and seconded to order 300 cards with the new call sign, W7OTV. Passed.
Al Berg the cards. This will take about 3 to 4 weeks.
Alan Chinnock will supply a list of ZIP codes covering our membership area. We will send out approximately 200 cards per month.
5. Treasurers report was given for OTVARC and SEAPAC.
6. Moved and seconded to purchase a \$5000 6-month CD. Brad Beach to do this.
7. Hanford VanNess will take over as treasurer for SEAPAC. Brad Beach has taken on a new job which will not allow him to continue performing this task.
8. Scholarship -- No report. Can we endow a scholarship?
9. 501c3 corporation -- Stan Griffiths will contact Dayton Amateur Radio Association to see if they have gone this route.
10. Possible program sources. Northern California DX Club has a library of 144 video and slide shows available to borrow.
11. Janet Bell asked if there are any stations that would accept tours from some of the new or prospective hams that she works with. Alan Chinnock, Stan Griffiths, and Al Berg offered their stations.
12. For our future consideration -- Do we want to set out guidelines for the use of the club call?
13. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan R. Chinnock KB7POR Secretary

WARNING!!!! Your next transmission could end life as we know it.

To the Editor:

From an electronic point of view, life on our planet depends on a multitude of separated collisions and all will blow up when the airwaves become overcrowded. That is something for those in the future to ponder.

For example, we use a remote control to turn on and off our TV set, change the channels, adjust audio and video, and a host of other things. It happens when we press a button on the remote and send a shock wave on a separate wavelength to collide with another button on the TV set.

How many wavelengths can be used to do different things before the atmosphere between the remote and the TV becomes so crowded that they all meld into one wavelength to become useless? It is comparable to the increase of advertising on television. As more and more television channels are used, say 100 to 500, the ads are bound to increase; and at some point the entertainment value of television will disappear and take with it the value of advertising on TV.

When advertising vanishes, rates for viewing

will go sky high and all the television producers and stations will likewise vanish.

Separate wavelengths are needed in more than the electronic part of life. For example, sonar came into existence during World War II when sound waves were beamed underwater to detect the presence of any enemy submarine. When the sound beam collided with a submarine, it backfired to tell exactly where and how far away the submarine was located.

Also, sound waves varied in distance and size, so much that electric razors were not allowed to be used aboard ships because their sound might be heard by those aboard submerged enemy submarines.

This is a nutty idea because there is plenty of air space to accommodate many separate electronic wavelengths. It might be different in the future, particularly if we cram too many satellites into outer space and the electronic signals which bounce off them become tangled.

Letter to the Editor in the Lake Oswego Review, June 28, 1996.

Maybe someone in the club is smart enough to explain this to me in terms that I can understand, preferably without the assistance of mind altering drugs.

From the Secretary Alan Chinnock KB7POR

The fastest growing segment of the amateur community is probably the Technician class. In fact I can say am there, doing that and collecting T-shirts. This growth is a wonderful thing, our hobby was perceived as dying several years ago and now things are going crazy. So much for the politics.

What I really want to talk about is the excitement of ham radio. Probably all of us know a long time ham who tells us the stories of building their own equipment because you could not buy ready to wear radios in the good old days. And the talk on and on about struggling to make that rare or distant contact with that old equipment. Boy things just ain't the same today.

Just try building a radio today that has even some of the features of that black box you can pick up at the toy store. Not only do you have to know electronics, you even have to design, build and program a computer. Oh well, I guess I will just go and buy something that's ready to transmit. (Oops, I mean receive. Remember it is nobler to listen than to talk.)

Not only that but we of the Technician class are "limited" to the really high frequencies (with apologies to Doug Jackson KB7Really High Frequency). Limited? I wish I had enough time to do everything I would like to do inside these limits. Limited? We have more spectrum in just the 2m band than all those "low bands" put together.

So what's a ham to do when monitoring the local repeater gets a little tiring. Well, my answer is to go play on 6m. This takes a little patience. I suspect that it may be a little like those good old days on HF. There are not a lot of people on the air and the propagation is not fully understood. Making a contact depends on patience and the good graces of Mother (Sporadic E) Nature.

It doesn't get any better than this. Or does it? This is where the good part starts (and I brag a little). Just the other day (Aug 8) I was monitoring the calling frequency in the afternoon. (This is the best time to catch that elusive Sporadic E.) Some one started transmitting, but they were not very clear. I tried a little by I could not really get them tuned in. Not to worry, they sounded close and I was really hoping for some distant grids. But I thought I heard them say 147.200. That's interesting, that is the 2m calling frequency. Oh well, I guess I will go see what is going on there.

Understatement. The band had opened on 2m. I was listening to stations in Arizona, Southern California, New Mexico. One station in Phoenix was working a pileup on 2m. I got in line. I tried to time my transmissions to the QSB. I called and I called. I could hear him great, but would he hear me. He did. We exchanged the required information and all that is left is for Snail Mail to bring me my first "way out there" QSL on 2m.

Sure you say. And how big is your station. It is small. I put out 25 watts on 2m and 10watts on 6m. I live in an antenna free environment. I managed to sneak some Ringos up on the back of the house. (The 10 watts on 6m has gotten me all the way to the southern tip of Texas, and I have the card to prove it.) You too can do this.

So next time you or someone else thinks that we are limited by being only above 30 MHz, think again. There is more stuff to do up here that you or I have time to do in several lifetimes. Don't get me wrong, I think I still want to get to those HF bands, and I am not pushing to eliminate the code requirement.



From ARRL: You may see references to 420-450 MHz having been withdrawn from consideration for little LEOs.

Here's the real scoop:

Little LEO industry representatives presented a list of candidate bands at the May 7, 1996, meeting of IWG-2A. That list included 144-146, 146-148, and 420-450 MHz. There are two other, later lists of candidate bands floating around. One was contained in a State Department cable to embassies and missions overseas, seeking information on utilization of various bands in those countries. This version of the list includes 144-146 and 146-148, but not 420-450 MHz. The last and was not included in recognition of Department of Defense concerns, and not because of our concerns.

The third list is contained in a document that was submitted at the May 30 meeting of IWG-2A, numbered IWG-2A#39. It is a joint document submitted by the little LEO companies E-Sat, Final Analysis, Inc., Leo One, ORBCOMM, and STARSYS. It lists 144-146 and 146-148 MHz as possible earth-to-space MSS allocations, notes the current primary allocations, and notes "Sharing analyses needed" with respect to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services. The 420-450 MHz band was not included in this document. However, the document contains the following note: "Note 3. Depending on the results of sharing studies, additional frequency allocations for NVNG MSS may be feasible in the bands 410-430 and 440-470 MHz." [NVNG is an abbreviation for "non-voice non-geostationary." MSS stands for "mobile-satellite service." So, the answer to the question, "Is 420-450 MHz out of danger?" is "NO!!!" -- David Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL HQ

INTRODUCTION TO PACKET RADIO - Part 15 - by Larry Kenney, WB9LOZ

Here are some tips to help make your packet operating more enjoyable. Whether it's while making local QSOs, checking into a BBS or mailbox, or working DX, there are a few things you should take into consideration that will help eliminate problems and waiting time and will increase your throughput. ("Throughput" is a word that has come into use by packet operators that means the amount of usable packet information received by the distant station.)

When connecting to another station, don't use a digipeater or node unless you have to. Each digipeater you add to the path increases the time required to get your signal to its destination and to get an acknowledgement returned. It also increases the chance for interference and for collisions with other packets. You'll be amazed at the difference in throughput when comparing a direct connect to one with just one digipeater in the path.

The packet node network, as discussed in previous articles in this series, does a great deal to help you get your packets through, but you must remember that throughput there, too, is affected by the number of nodes and the conditions between you and the destination station. The big advantage of the nodes is that the acknowledgements do not have to return all the way from the destination station. Packets are acknowledged from node to node, so that eliminates a large part of the problems encountered. Getting the original packet through, however, remains to be as much of a problem for the nodes as it is for you when using digipeaters. It can take several minutes to get a packet through when you're working a station some distance away.

Dr. Tom Clark, W3IWI, has determined that for EACH HOP in a packet path the loss of packets can vary anywhere from 5% to 50% depending on the amount of traffic. Remember, each digipeater and node adds a hop, so multiply those percentages by the number of hops, then multiply by 2 to account for the acknowledgement, and you can see how quickly the path deteriorates as traffic increases and digipeaters and nodes are added to it.

If you have a choice, use a frequency that doesn't have a lot of other traffic on it. It makes sense that the more stations there are on frequency, the more chances there are for collisions and retries. A path that will work perfectly without a lot of traffic, can become totally useless under heavy traffic conditions. Just one additional station on the frequency can decrease throughput by about half in many cases.

Another consideration, especially if working over

a long distance, is atmospheric conditions. You might not have experienced this before on VHF, but with packet's high sensitivity to noise, a slight change in signal strength can mean the difference between getting your packets through or not getting them through. An example of one path that is very vulnerable to conditions due to its distance is from W6AK-1 on Mt. Vaca to WB6AIE-1 on Bald Mountain in Yosemite National Park on 145.05 MHz. Most of the time, packets go between these two nodes without any problem, but there are

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times, especially when it's a hot summer day in the Sacramento Valley, when it's impossible to get a packet from one to the other. In the Bay Area, the fog has a drastic affect on VHF signals. When a fog bank is moving in off the Pacific, it can act as an excellent reflector. Signals that are not normally heard can reach signal strengths of 40 over S9.

Multipath is another problem that can greatly affect your packet signal. Multipath is the term used to describe the receipt of multiple signals from one source due to reflections off of buildings, hills or mountains. The "ghost" in a television picture is a form of multipath. A station with a very strong signal into a digipeater or node often cannot use that path if multipath causes the signal to be distorted. Each packet is checked for 100% accuracy and is not acknowledged unless it is. Multipath reflection can cause occasional bits to be lost so you end up with multiple retries and a poor path even with strong signals.

To sum up, for best results on VHF use the least number of digipeaters and nodes as possible, use a frequency with low activity, and be aware of atmospheric conditions and multipath problems.

If you use packet on HF, remember to change your transmit baud rate to 300 and to use a short PACLEN (a value of 40 seems to work quite well) and a MAXFRAME of 1. The chances of getting a short packet through the noise and QRM are much better than for a long one.

73.....Rick - KB7OGD @ KB7OGD.OR.USA.NOAM



News From All Over

KENWOOD SAYS HAM INDUSTRY MUST GET INVOLVED

Kenwood Communications says that the ham radio industry must take a leadership position if the Amateur Radio service is to survive. In a June 10th open letter, Kenwood's Amateur Radio Products Group National Sales Manager Paul Middleton, KD6NUH, painted a dismal picture for the future.

Middleton says that when his planners looked at where Amateur Radio is today, and where it is going to be in ten years at the present rate of decline, the future looks bleak. Middleton cites competition from unlicensed communications modes such as the newly created Family Radio Service as one impediment to future growth in Amateur Radio. He says that Kenwood intends to work hard to expand the hobby. This to insure its survival and to expose more people to ham radio in more locations. Middleton says that Kenwood believes that more people will become responsible operators if they are directly exposed to Amateur Radio.

(Newsline Radio)

HURRICANE BERTHA HITS NORTH CAROLINA

Packing winds in excess of 100 miles per hour, hurricane Bertha tore into the North Carolina coastline on Friday July 12th. The storm made landfall near Cape Fear and then battered a string of coastal towns as it roared northward. Roofs were ripped from buildings, roads were flooded and communications to many areas was knocked out. Bertha wasn't the strongest hurricane to hit North Carolina but it still managed to bring plenty of problems to residents and vacationers. More than a quarter of a million people fled North Carolina's beaches in advance of the storm. Radio amateurs throughout the state went on full alert. As expected, their services proved to be valuable.

"Many times, communications were lost in some of the smaller towns. The coast areas were hardest hit. And I know for a fact that with my internet connection, the stuff, the phone lines went down in that area. They totally got wiped off the air. Telephones also were reported down."

Greenville's Chuck Martin, KD6NUJ is one of hundreds of amateurs who provided communications support during the hurricane. Some of that support included helping the Red Cross with operating shelters, which filled up with more than 14,000 people.

"Ham radio operators actually provided communications from those shelters to the other hams. So that they could actually get the supplies and stuff that they needed. The head count and also notify people in

the area as to where their people might be in the shelters."

But that's only part of what North Carolina hams did to manage the emergency. 75,000 people lost power. Ray Mahorney, KB4EJK, is active with Onslow county's amateur radio emergency service. He says radio amateurs helped public safety officials whom Bertha left in the dark:

"In many instances county emergency communication centers has lost power, so hams were the only means by which communications were disseminated there for quite a while."

Bertha was an unusual storm because it hit North Carolina so early in the hurricane season. Nonetheless, hams in the state were ready when the storm moved ashore south of Wilmington July 12th. Hams had been holding organizational nets and planning their responses. Ray Mahorney says one of the biggest challenges amateurs faced was fulfilling two communications needs simultaneously:

"It was shelter communications and making sure that the National Weather Service Offices were provided with the best information they could have from ground sources."

In the northern part of North Carolina, Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, says amateurs manned emergency operations centers and the state EOC in Raleigh. Hams also maintained a continuous high frequency net until after the hurricane's main danger had passed. Ray Mahorney says North Carolina hams anxious to sharpen their emergency communications skills view Bertha as a learning experience:

"The hams performed well, however, as with any emergency communications exercise, or event, there is room for improvement."

North Carolina Governor James Hunt thanked radio amateurs throughout the state for their efforts during Bertha's attack, praising their devotion to public service.

By Saturday morning the 13th, the storm's top winds weakened to 75 mph as it stalled over land. By then, more almost 400,000 customers had lost telephone and electrical power in the Carolinas. Many hams involved in storm related emergency communications were forced to use portable and mobile radios to stay on the air.

(Newsline Radio)

From: Satellite Station - W7KJZ



===Shuttle Launch Information===

Columbia STS-80 launch set October 31. SAREX :Yes

Atlantis STS-81 launch set December 5. SAREX :Yes

Discovery STS-82 launch set February 13, 1997. SAREX :Unknown

Columbia STS-83 launch set March 27, 1997. SAREX :Unknown

**All times and dates subject to change. Most launches are on Thursdays.

===Working with 9913 Coax===

ref. Amsat Journal May/June 1996

One of the most popular transmission lines is Belden 9913 Coaxial cable. Installing N connectors on 9913 is much easier (and less lossy) than using the standard so-

called UHF PL-259 connectors once you know a few tricks and skills

- 1) Use the proper type connector with an oversized center pin (like Amphenol's 82-202-1006)
- 2) Use vinyl plastic electrical tape (3 to 5 inches) wrapped around the coax end up against the N connector's shield clamp ring to provide a snug slip fit when assembled.
- 3) Take your time and carefully make all cuts to a 1/64 inch tolerance then double check measurements when done.
- 4) Use a small tube cutter so your cuts are all perfectly square and clean, leaving the shield unnick'd by ever so slowly tightening the roller blade as you cut (so you can stop just before you touch the shield).
- 5) Take your time fanning and trimming the shield so it lies evenly and smoothly over the entire clamp surface, but not beyond it to where it will interfere with assembly. No strands should cross.

For detailed instructions with drawings consult The ARRL Handbook, The ARRL Antenna Book and The ARRL Electronics Data Book.

===UNAMSAT-B===

The launch of UNAMSAT-B has been delayed from the previously announced date to early September. The launch will still take place in Plesetsk, Russia. The launch team is departing for Mexico on the 14 of August and will spend some time there performing the vibration and thermocycle tests. Then they will travel to Plesetsk on a yet-to-be-determined date to integrate the satellite to the rocket. UNAMSAT will be the last spacecraft to be mounted on the rocket.

The launch team promises to keep the world informed via E-Mail and AMS will pass along news as it becomes available.

===JAS-2 (Replacement for Fuji OSCAR 20)===

A Japanese H-II rocket carrying the ADEOS satellite, along with the Japanese amateur satellite JAS-2, was successfully launched by NASDA, the Japanese Space Agency, from their Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan at 10:54 JST (01:54 UTC) on Saturday, August 17, 1996.

Several stations in South America and the eastern USA also reported hearing JAS-2's CW telemetry beacon soon after it separated from the launch vehicle over Antarctica during its first orbit. One of those stations was manned by AMSAT-NA's Executive Vice President, Keith Baker, KB1SF.

"Being one of the very first to hear signals from a brand new Amateur Radio satellite has to be one of the biggest thrills one can have as a Ham," Keith said. "I know many of us also shared some really tense moments until we finally heard those first CW beacon signals from the new 'baby' coming through loud and clear in our headphones!" he noted. Keith went on to say, "On behalf of Bill Tynan, our AMSAT-NA President, I offer warm congratulations to our good friends at the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) for their hard work in providing the amateurs of the world with yet another highly advanced Amateur Radio satellite." Keith also thanked Tak Okamoto, JA2PKI, JAMSAT's President and his team for their very strong support of the JARL in this effort and also for their minute-by-minute reports via AMSAT-BB on the developments leading up to JAS-2's successful launch.

The JAS-2 command team ask that stations *not* attempt to communicate through any of JAS-2's transponders, even though they may appear to be powered on, until they can do a complete checkout of the new satellite.

73 de Dick - W7KJZ @W0RLI.#NWOR.OR.USA.NOAM.ZIP97219

1996 Calendar of Interesting Things

Sep 7-14		Cycle Oregon (Notice of missing board members)
Sep 11	Wednesday	September Meeting - Flea Market
Sep 14-15		Hoodview Hamfest
Sep 15	Sunday	Walk for the Cure (Betty N7REX)
Sep 21	Saturday	Portland Ham Fair
Sep 20-22		Travellers Randle, WA Chuck & Betty Mickley
Sep 27-29		Walla Walla Hamfest
Sep 28	Saturday	Fall National Exam Day
Sep 29	Sunday	Fall National Exam Day
Oct 5	Saturday	Diabetes Walk (Betty N7REX)
Oct 5	Saturday	Oregon State EMD/ARES/RACES workshop - Pendleton
Oct 12	Saturday	Nampa Hamfest
Oct 12	Saturday	North Kitsap Hamfest, Bremerton, WA
Oct 18-20		Travellers Somewhere Bob & Jo Orr
Oct 26	Saturday	Mid-Valley ARES, Rickreall
Oct 30	Wednesday	Fifth Wednesday Radio Contest
Nov 9	Saturday	Bellingham Radio Fleamarket, Ferndale, WA
Nov 15-17		Travellers Depoe Bay Tom & Barb Bailey
Nov 29	Friday	Santa Claus Parade (Jim KB7ADH)
Jun 14-15		SEAPAC 1997

If you would like an event included in the calendar please call Alan Chinnock KB7POR at 636-2237. If it is in reasonably good taste I will include it.

HamFests, Conventions, Swap Meets:

Saturday, September 21, 1996

Last Fall's first Portland Hamfair was a great success, according to Ed Clulow, W7TWL, of the Hoodview ARC. So the club has reserved the Pay 'N' Pak Collectors Market building for the second one to be held from 9-5. Grand prize is a Kenwood VHF mobile. The building is the site of many swap meets and has lots of room. Parking is somewhat limited in the Delta Park neighborhood, but there is a fairly good size lot. Early registration deadline is August 17 for an extra prize ticket Preregistration deadline is September 14.

Fri/Sat/Sun, September 20-22, 1996

ARRL and TAPR are presenting the **Digital Communications Conference (DCC)** in Seattle. This is the same weekend though as the Portland Hamfest. You can get additional information on DCC by accessing <http://www.tapr.org/tapr/html/dccconf.html>. Thanks to Griff - N7ZKL for this information.

Saturday, October 26, 1996

Mid-Valley ARES proudly presents its 2nd annual **SWAP-TOBERFEST** ARES/RACES convention. The event is scheduled to be held at the Polk County Fairgrounds - West of Salem where Hwy 22 meets 99W. Grand Prize is a VHF HT with a \$100 gift certificate for accessories. This is touted as "A Convention with the Emergency Communicator in mind....". Planned displays include the Oregon State Police Communications Van, the Marion and Polk County Emergency Communications Van, Red Cross and the Civil Air Patrol...[provided vehicles are not actively working an incident]... VE Testing will be available. Contact Evan - N7IFJ - (503) 585-5924. For VE testing pre-registration contact Sandy - N7TQQ - (503) 588-7685.

Saturday November 9th, 1996

Mount Baker Amateur Radio Club will be holding their Seventh Annual BellingHAM RADIO FLEAMARKET at the Ferndale Band Booster Bingo Hall - NW corner of I-5 and Smith Road Overpass, Ferndale WA. Admission will be \$3 at the door. The fleamarket will feature Ham Dealers, Country Store, Computers, Club & Repeater info, snack bar and VE Exams. Information is available by contacting Al - K7IEY - (360) 354-4622 or Terry VE7BUS/W7 - (360) 354-5868. Talk-in Freq will be 146.74-

There you have it. Support local economy - Make them all and spend lots of money....

So you think you're computer-illiterate?

Check out the following excerpts from a Wall Street Journal article by Jim Carlton — *From Internet*

Compaq is considering changing the command "Press Any Key" to "Press Return Key" because of the flood of calls asking where the "Any" key is.

AST technical support had a caller complaining that her mouse was hard to control with the dust cover on. The cover turned out to be the plastic bag the mouse was packaged in.

Another Compaq technician received a call from a man complaining that the system wouldn't read word processing files from his old diskettes. After trouble-shooting for magnets and heat failed to diagnose the problem, it was found that the customer labeled the diskettes then rolled them into the typewriter to type the labels.

Another AST customer was asked to send a copy of her defective diskettes. A few days later a letter arrived from the customer along with Xeroxed copies of the floppies.

A Dell technician advised his customer to put his troubled floppy back in the drive and close the door. The customer asked the tech to hold on, and was heard putting the phone down, getting up and crossing the room to close the door to his room.

Another Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of trouble-shooting, the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "send" key.

Another Dell customer needed help setting up a new program, so a Dell tech suggested he go to the local Egghead. "Yeah, I got me a couple of friends," the customer replied. When told Egghead was a software store, the man said, "Oh, I thought you meant for me to find a couple of geeks."

Yet another Dell customer called to complain that his keyboard no longer worked. He had cleaned it by filling up his tub with soap and water and soaking the keyboard for a day, then removing all the keys and washing them individually.

A Dell technician received a call from a customer who was enraged because his computer had told him he was "bad and an invalid". The tech explained that the computer's "bad command" and "invalid" responses shouldn't be taken personally.

An exasperated caller to Dell Computer Tech Support couldn't get her new Dell Computer to turn on. After ensuring the computer was plugged in, the technician asked her what happened when she pushed the power button. Her response, "I pushed and pushed on this foot pedal and nothing happens." The "foot pedal" turned out to be the computer's mouse.

Another customer called Compaq tech support to say her brand-new computer wouldn't work. She said she unpacked the unit, plugged it in, and sat there for 20 minutes waiting for something to happen. When asked what happened when she pressed the power switch, she asked "What power switch?"

BAD MANNERS CAN LEAD TO SPECTRUM LOSS

A problem facing ham radio is the possible loss of almost exclusive use of several popular bands. At least one ham says that one of the reasons that two meters and 70 centimeters are both under scrutiny is that hams are failing to keep their operations squeaky clean. This says Phil Thomas, N8LJA, is definitely ammunition that will be used against us in the future:

"Right now, there is a possibility of losing our 2 meter and 440 MHz bands to a newly formed group interested in using one or both of the bands for LEOs or Low Earth Orbiting Satellites. There will be several factors that will influence the FCC in what direction they will rule. One of the factors that will influence the commission will be the way amateurs police their bands. Since the large influx of amateurs following the inception of the no-code license there seems to have been a lack of teaching proper etiquette that is expected from the amateur community. Along with this amateurs have seemed to have dropped the ball in the area of policing. What will it take for our amateur community to return the amateur bands to the way they were? It will take every amateur, amateur clubs, and amateur organizations working hard with each other in a concerted effort of teaching and policing our amateur bands. This, and only this will secure our amateur bands in the near future." N8LJA

Phil Thomas, N8LJA is the producer of Amateur News Weekly. This is a ham radio information provider serving several mid-western states.

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Oregon State Emergency Management Division to hold ARES/RACES workshop.

According to a letter from Kelly Jo Jensen - Oregon Emergency Management - there will be a one day workshop held in Pendleton on Saturday, October 5th. The instructors will be members of the Oregon ARES/RACES Organization; Oregon Emergency Management; and local emergency managers.

The course will discuss areas such as the roles and responsibilities of the ARES/RACES Program in Oregon; utilization of ARES/RACES by local government; local and state government expectations; and a general overview of the Incident Command System (ICS).

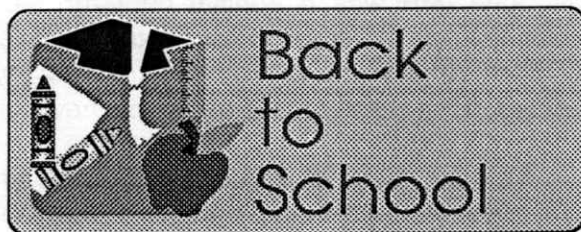
To quote Kelly Jensen's letter, "The target audience for this one day workshop is ARES/RACES Area coordinators and their Assistants. However, local emergency managers and other ARES/RACES staff are also welcome..... There is a limit of 40 attendees."

If you wish to attend, you must complete a FEMA form 75-5, General Admissions Application Form, and return to the Salem office **no later than Friday, September 13th**. They will not accept any applications after that date. You may obtain this form through your local emergency manager. Acceptance letters with logistical information will be sent to those applicants selected to attend. There is no lodging assistance available for this course.

If you have any questions, please contact Lew Williams or Marty McKillip via ARES/RACES modes, or Kelly Jo Jensen at (503) 378-2911 x 246, or e-mail at: kjensen@oem.state.or.us.

If you have an interest in ARES/RACES activities in the state, I would recommend you consider this course. As you notice the cutoff date is rapidly approaching. If you want to attend, contact your local Office of Emergency Management and request the form. Then ask that the completed form be faxed to the state office at 503-588-1378 for consideration.

As we all know from this last winter, amateur radio is a very essential part of the emergency communications link. Get involved. - N7VZF - District 1 ARES Net Manager



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EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

If you don't operate on HF because you don't have the equipment, OTVARC may have the answer for you. Some used but very usable equipment has been donated to OTVARC for the purpose of lending it to members who do not have their own equipment. There is no cost to OTVARC members.

Right now, we have a Heath HW-101 looking for a good temporary home. This is a 100 watt 80 through 10 meter SSB and CW transceiver. We also have a few bucks in a fund to buy accessories such as an antenna tuner to lend with the transceiver if you need one of those. This is a great way to see if you like the world of HF without making a large investment in equipment. A typical equipment loan would be for a period of six months at which time the loan would be reviewed and possibly extended if the equipment is actually being put to good use by the borrower. Otherwise, we would recall the equipment and look for another person who wants to use it.

If you have some equipment that is surplus to you and you think it could be loaned to others through this program, please contact me and we will discuss it. You will not necessarily have to give up your ownership of the equipment since you will not have to actually donate it to OTVARC.

Contact Stan Griffiths, W7NI at 649-0837 if you are interested in this program.

Young Japanese Ham visits Northwest.

July 24th was a special date for me. That Wednesday was the day my new daughter arrived. No, Trudi didn't surprise me with a new bundle of joy but it was a joy just the same. On top of that, our new daughter was already a ham.

Tomomi ("Beautiful Friend") - JP6MKU arrived to spend the next 28 days, learning about American family life. I don't think that any of us realized what an impact it would have on our lives.

Tomo and her father are both hams. They hold Class 4 and Class 3 licenses respectfully. I am not sure how that relates to our Amateur license classes but I know that in a letter from Tomo's father he stated he was going for his Class 2 license while Tomo was here.

Tomo is 16 and will be a Junior at the Oita/Beppu City high school. She could have been a twin for my own daughter April. They shared many of the same interests, hobbies and goals. During her stay, April and Tomo even shared the same room and spent many long hours talking and giggling. April, my eldest, has studied Japanese ("Nihone Go") for two years now and is fairly fluent in the language. She was able to translate questions to Japanese and Tomo would respond in English. Tomo has studied English in school for 3 years but like she said, "The English you speak is much different that what we are taught!" None of us probably realize how much "SlangSpeak" is peppered throughout our daily communications. Imagine how confusing it might seem to someone who had only learn "correct" English with the words we use that I am sure are not written down any where.

When I first learned that we had been chosen to host a Japanese student and that student would be here for a month (exactly 28 days), I had all these great ideas about what we would do. As a "Mr. Mom", I would have all kinds of opportunities to take us all on local day trips and the like. Little did I know that the students (30 in the group) are required to go to school for 4 hours each day (they have their own teacher who travels with them) and then had scheduled cultural events for the rest of the day. That left just weekends for the host families. As I work weekends at the radio station, that didn't leave much time to share with Tomo. It was great for my children though. One, two or all three of them would go to school with Tomo each day and worked as mentors for the other students.

Our family was able to share two trips with the class when we visited the Oregon Coast ("Ocean is much colder!") and the Columbia Gorge ("Hills are SOOO High!"). On our trip to the coast, we drove our own van so we could take some side trips to show Tomo some of the sights that weren't on the itinerary for the rest of the group. I can remember stopping to see the

US's largest Sitka Spruce tree. Tomo tried to take a picture only to discover that she had to take 2 pictures to get it all.

As a family, we did take time in the evening to have family outings around the city. One evening we took Tomo out for a "City Lights" tour. One evening, we packed a picnic basket and shared fried chicken on Bald Peak. Her comments each time was the same. "It is so wide!" The trips were good for my family also. It helped them to realize how much we have in the area that they take for granted. We took to calling it "Looking at the world with New Eyes."

Some of you, who were at the August meeting, had the opportunity to meet Tomo. I told her that I had a ham meeting and was pleasantly surprised when she asked if it would be acceptable for her to go also. I want to thank all of you for taking the time to make Tomo feel as welcome as you did. She will be sending a copy of the picture taken at the meeting and I will try to publish here when I receive it.

Tomo has a real interest in Ham radio, mostly as a way for her to practice her English. Every Monday evening, when I would be taking net, she would log the check ins along with me. She is very interested in how our ARES group operates and would like to get involved with the Japanese version when she gets home. She is also a member of the JARL (Japanese version of the ARRL) and presented me with a copy of their magazine (similar to our QST). Unfortunately, it is all in Japanese but some of the cartoons are cute and the pictures are interesting.

When I first heard we had a student coming, I wondered how we would keep her busy for 28 days. Once she got here, I realized that 6 months wouldn't be enough time. On August, 21st, I had to say good-bye to Tomomi. That was one of the hardest things I have had to do in a long time. In that short 4 weeks, Tomo had become part of the family and had found a special place in our hearts. It was like going to postpartum depression and now it seems that the house is strangely quiet. Tomo, you will be missed.

All that is left to say is -

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Vice President	Neil McKie	WA6KLA	649-4264
Secretary	Alan Chinnock	KB7POR	636-2237
Treasurer	Brad Beach	N7NVC	657-1781
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Trustee	Janet Bell	WB7FJC	648-4147
Trustee	Al Berg	WB7SIC	640-5456
Trustee	Stan Griffiths	W7NI	649-0837

Other Club Contacts

ARRL Coordinator	Bob Orr	WF7Q	297-2732
Bunny Hunting			
Contesting			
DX News	Rich Jones	KG7FS	645-9417
Equipment Valuation	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	297-1175
Equipment Trustee	Al Berg	WB7SIC	640-5456
Emergency Services			
Field Day	Carl Clawson	WS7L	629-5796
Health & Welfare	Mary Berg	N7TRW	640-5456
Member Badges	Carl Clawson	WS7L	629-5496
Newsletter Editor	Bill Merwin	N7VZF	644-1974
Newsletter Layout	Bill Merwin	N7VZF	644-1974
Newsletter Distribution	Al Berg	WB7SIC	640-5456
Nominating Committee	Hanford Van Ness	KE7BB	246-7975
Packet - Club BBS	Rick Braun	KB7OGD	645-1490
Project Night	Alan Chinnock	KB7POR	636-2237
	Chuck Mickley	KI7CL	642-1284
Public Relations	Bill Merwin	N7VZF	644-1974
Public Service	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	297-1175
Repeater	Wes Allen	K7WWG	649-3295
RFI & TVI	Dale Mosby	N7PEX	640-0217
Satellites	Dick Emmel	W7KJZ	245-1928
Scholarship	Carl Clawson	WS7L	629-5796
Sea-Pac	Al Berg	WB7SIC	640-5456
	Brad Beach	N7NVC	657-1781
	Jim Schaeffer	KB7ADH	245-2518
	Randy Stimson	KZ7T	297-1175
Technical			
Tower Ordinances	Stan Griffiths	W7NI	649-0837
Trailer	Dee Lynch	KA7NPN	646-4580
Training(Code)	Burt Rooke	KI7JX	241-2891
Training(Novice/Tech)	Burt Rooke	KI7JX	241-2891
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OTVARC Club Information

Purpose: The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club, a Not-for-profit corporation, wants to be instrumental in helping the prospective as well as established Amateur to become a proficient communicator in the Amateur Radio Service.

Additionally, the intent is to promote the advancement of Amateur Radio Service through the following five objectives:

1. Education & Training of new and licensed Amateurs.
2. Public Service during public events & community activities.
3. Emergency communications during emergencies & disasters.
4. Hobby enhancement through meetings, nets & contests.
5. Social contact with other amateurs & interested persons.

Special Service Club OTVARC is an ARRL Special Service Club. The ARRL grants us this distinction due to our participation in emergency preparedness exercises, public service events and other service-oriented programs. In addition, continuing educational and training programs are conducted for FCC licenses. OTVARC benefits from you joining the ARRL through OTVARC. To join or renew your membership in the ARRL, contact the treasurer at any regular meeting.

Newsletter: The *OTVARC Oscillator* is the club newsletter. It is published monthly and is usually mailed on the first of the month. The opinions, views and recommendations of its contributors are not necessarily those of the Club, its officers, advertisers or the editorial staff.

Correspondence: All correspondence may be sent to OTVARC, PO Box 5132, Aloha, OR 97006-0132.

Advertising: Classified ads are free to all paid up members. Display ads are available to approved commercial interests. To place an ad, mail your camera ready copy to the address above and indicate the size desired. All display ads run for six months at a time from January through June and July through December. All ads must be paid for in advance. Rates for 1994 are as follows:

Full Page	8" X 10"	\$200 for 6 mo.
Half Page	8" X 5"	\$125 for 6 mo.
Qtr Page	4" X 5"	\$75 for 6 mo.
Bus. Card	2" X 3"	\$35 for 6 mo.

Meetings: We have two meetings per month. The board meeting is on the fourth Wednesday of each month. All club business is conducted at this meeting. All members are welcome to attend. Contact the President for location and time. The general meeting is on the second Wednesday of each month at the Beaverton Elks Club, 3500 SW 104th Ave. (1 block north of Canyon Road). Meetings start at 7PM. If you would like to come early, you can get a nice meal from the Elks for less than \$6.

Membership OTVARC is open to anyone who is interested in amateur radio. You do not need to be a licensed radio amateur to join. Dues are as follows: Full member, \$10/yr; Associate member (non-licensed), \$10/yr; Family members of full member, \$5/yr; Life memberships available - see Treasurer. Only full members and life members may vote on club business and serve as club officers. All memberships expire on the last day of the calendar year. If you would like to join during the year, see the club Treasurer for prorated dues.

How To Join: Simply mail the Member Application and Renewal Form along with your dues to the address above.

Internet Home Page : WWW.EASYSTREET.COM/OTVARC

NEXT CLUB MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th

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